

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially tall hollow metal pole of one or more ~~tapered~~ truncated conical sections thirty or more feet in total length, the pole having a ~~side~~ wall with a thickness and an exterior surface;
- (b) a covering layer of plastic sheet material having inner and outer sides, the inner side mounted in conforming relationship directly over to the exterior surface of at least a substantial portion of the total length of the pole; and
- (c) the sheet material being a fraction of an inch thick;
- (d) the sheet material having resistance to:
 - (i) water absorption;
 - (ii) substantial dimensional variation;
 - (iii) tearing;
- (e) the sheet material ~~is being~~ being trapezoidal in a flat orientation, having and has a width predesigned dimensions correlated with the pole such that opposite side edges are adjacent, or abutting, or overlapping when the sheet material is ~~wrapped~~ placed around the pole, and the sheet material assumes a truncated conical shape directly covering the pole further comprising a fastener to secure the opposite side edges to secure the sheet material in a wrapped position on the pole.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pole is made of tubular material.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the tubular material is steel.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pole is tapered.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pole is slip-fittable to a base positioned in the ground or on a support.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pole is elongated for elevating lighting fixtures on cross-arms.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pole comprises a plurality of sections.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the sections slip-fit together.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the ~~apparatus~~ sheet material comprises an independent covering layer for each pole section.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein a ~~covering layer~~ sheet material overlaps an adjacent ~~covering layer~~ sheet material.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the overlapping is succeeding lower parts over preceding upper parts of ~~covering layers~~ sheet material.

Claim 13 (Currently amended). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~covering layer~~ sheet material ~~adapted to be~~ is wrapped around a portion of the pole.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material is flexible.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material comprises vinyl.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 13 wherein the ~~vinyl~~ sheet material comprises a vinyl/acrylic alloy.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fraction of an inch thick of the layer is approximately .040 inches thick.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material has top, bottom and opposite side edges.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19 wherein opposite side edges are rolled into a U-shape, both on the same side of the sheet material.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sheet material is trapezoidal in a flat orientation and includes rolled edges along opposite converging side edges.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around a pole.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around a pole.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material and engagement with a pole or structure attached to a pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the fastener comprises a bolt and the item adapted for attachment to a pole ~~or~~ comprises a nut.

Claim 31 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an opening formed in the covering layer.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the opening formed in the ~~cover~~ covering layer is adapted to correspond to an opening or structure on a ~~the~~ pole.

Claim 33 (Original): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising a sealing member adapted to be positioned around the opening in the covering layer.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a seal on top of the covering layer relative the hole.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the seal comprises a caulk-type material.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer substantially covers all of the pole.

Claim 37 (Original): The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 39 (Original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 40 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 41 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is patterned.

Claim 42 (Currently amended): A method of protecting and/or changing the appearance of the exterior of a substantially tall pole of thirty or more feet in length, comprising:

- (a) covering in conforming non-load bearing relationship directly to at least a substantial part of the exterior of the pole with a sleeve of plastic material, the layer having resistance to:
 - (i) water absorption;
 - (ii) substantial dimensional variation; and
 - (iii) tearing; and
- (b) fixing the sleeve along the pole.

Claim 43 (Previously presented). The method of claim 42 wherein the sleeve is a sheet with opposite edges and the step of covering comprises wrapping a portion of the pole with the sleeve.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The method of claim 43 further comprising, when wrapped around the pole, securing adjacent edges of the sheet relative to one another.

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the step of fixing comprises securing the sleeve against longitudinal movement along the pole.

Claim 46 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the substantially tall poles are 30 foot or longer.

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The method of claim 43 wherein the pole is tapered and sleeve is trapezoidal when in flat position.

Claim 48 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the pole comprises a plurality of sections and the covering step comprises applying a plurality of sleeves to the pole.

Claim 49 (Previously presented): The method of claim 48 further comprising overlapping succeeding portions over preceding portions.

Claim 50 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the plastic material comprises a flexible vinyl/acrylic alloy material.

Claim 51 (Previously presented). The method of claim 43 wherein the sheet has rolled opposite edges.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 further comprising sealing the top of the sleeve relative to the pole once on the pole.

Claim 53 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42 wherein the sleeve comprises at least one of preselected color, texture, or pattern.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): A combination used to elevate at least one high intensity lighting fixture thirty or more feet to illuminate a wide area, comprising:

- (a) an elongated hollow metal pole of one or more sections and thirty feet or more in total length, wherein the pole provides structural support sufficient to support the at least one high intensity lighting fixture, the pole having an exterior;
- (b) a cover mounted in conforming relationship ~~over~~ directly to a substantial portion of the exterior of the pole to protect the pole, the cover comprising a plurality of independent members arranged along the pole;
- (c) each member being a fraction of an inch thick, having an inner side at the exterior of the pole without providing structural support relative to the lighting fixture, and has resistance to:
 - (i) water absorption;
 - (ii) substantial dimensional variation; and
 - (iii) tearing.

Claim 55 (Previously presented): The combination of claim 54 wherein the pole is tapered and each member comprising:

- (a) a trapezoidal shaped sheet and having opposite vertical edges;
- (b) the dimensions adapted for wrapping each sheet around a section of the pole such that opposite vertical edges are adjacent but not overlapping;
- (c) a fastener adapted to receive at least part of the opposite vertical edges to secure the wrapped sheet to the pole.

Claim 56 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially tall hollow metal pole of one or more tapered sections used to elevate at least one high intensity lighting fixture thirty or more feet to illuminate a wide area, the pole having a side wall with a thickness of a fraction of an inch and an exterior;
- (b) a covering layer of material adapted to be positionable ~~around~~ directly to at least a substantial part of the pole exterior;
- (c) the covering layer comprising a flexible plastic, fraction of an inch thick sheet material adapted to be positioned in conforming relationship around the exterior of the pole, the layer being formable into a truncated cone substantially matching the taper of the pole;

- (d) the width of the sheet material being predesigned such that opposite edges are adjacent or overlapping when the sheet is in conforming relationship around the pole.

Claim 57 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the pole is 30 foot or longer when assembled.

Claim 58 (Cancelled).

Claim 59 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a cross-arm for elevating lighting fixtures.

Claim 60 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around the pole.

Claim 61 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 60 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around the pole.

Claim 62 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, and in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 63 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 64 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 65 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material into engagement with the pole or structure attached to the pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 66 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 67 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is adapted to substantially cover all of a pole.

Claim 68 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 69 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 70 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 71 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 72 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the covering layer is patterned.

Claim 73 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially tall pole having an exterior;
- (b) a covering layer of flexible plastic, fraction of an inch thick material adapted to be positionable ~~around~~ directly to at least a part of the pole exterior.

Claim 74 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the pole is 30 foot or longer when assembled.

Claim 75 (Cancelled).

Claim 76 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the poles are elongated for elevating lighting fixtures on cross-arms.

Claim 77 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the width of the sheet material is predesigned such that opposite side edges are adjacent but not overlapping when wrapped around a pole.

Claim 78 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 further comprising a fastener to secure the sheet in a wrapped position around a pole.

Claim 79 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 78 wherein the fastener comprises an elongated clip having a base with inwardly angled walls at opposite side edges of the base, in a normal position the inwardly angled walls defining an opening therebetween.

Claim 80 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 79 wherein the inwardly angled walls are deformable upon application of sufficient force to hold them inwardly and downwardly so that they exert clamping pressure.

Claim 81 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the deformable walls are adapted to clamp the rolled under edges of sheet material upon deformation.

Claim 82 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 further comprising a fastener adapted for passing through the sheet material and engagement with a pole or structure attached to a pole to prevent longitudinal movement of the sheet material.

Claim 83 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 82 wherein the fastener comprises a screw.

Claim 84 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is adapted to substantially cover all of a pole.

Claim 85 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84 wherein the covering layer is colored.

Claim 86 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the coloring is predesigned to match an environmental feature around a pole.

Claim 87 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the coloring is predesigned to correspond to a recognized combination of colors indicating affiliation with a group or organization.

Claim 88 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is textured.

Claim 89 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the covering layer is patterned.